

In a personal communication Merrilees mentions the fact that "the *Zygoniaturus* premolar and the *Sthenurus* premolar and molars all are encrusted with red matrix and presumably come from a fossil deposit. The red fine-grained matrix suggests that this deposit may be in a limestone cave, and there are many such caves in the Fitzroy basin". The red matrix, I feel sure, is ochre, and on examination of the *Sthenurus* teeth it can be seen that this ochre does not penetrate all cavities and freshly broken surfaces can be seen. This leads me to believe that the *Sthenurus* teeth at least had only been recently exposed.

NATURE OF THE CHARMS

The *Zygoniaturus* tooth was used in a form of projection magic and was itself known as "Tjagola". This it seems is rather a generic name for any unusual stones, bones, shells or teeth used in this way, and therefore gives no further clues to origin of the specimen. This was given to me in Derby by an Aboriginal from Mount Hart.

As was mentioned earlier the *Sthenurus* teeth were a hunting or increase charm. These were collected at Mowanjum Mission, from a Worora man, who also incidentally, brought in some archaic points from Winjana Gorge.

Apart from reporting two unusual, to say the least, charms, I feel that this case shows full well what happens when an enthusiastic but untrained collector manages to acquire something out of the ordinary. The ability to recognize and to record the sociological and functional implications of any artifact is important as it enhances and makes useful an interesting but otherwise barren artifact.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES

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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Yellow-billed Spoonbill near Busselton.—While touring the South-West in mid-January 1973, Mrs. Kath Stewart and I had a very good view of a Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*) at dusk on the Abba River, just north of Busselton. The bill and bare skin around the face and eyes appeared more pink than yellow, suggesting they were immature birds, as described in Slater's *A Field Guide to Australian Birds*.

—NOELA MARR.

Quokka on the Albany Highway.—In early May 1972, when on my way home from Perth, I noticed a small marsupial had been hit and killed by a passing vehicle, and, as it was not a Brush (*Macropus irma*), I stopped to examine it. To my surprise it was a Quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*). It was a few chains just past the 27 mile peg on the Albany Highway.

—DAWN CRABB, "Cheryton," Kojonup.

Black-throated Butcher-bird at Woodmans Point.—This species, *Cracticus nigrogularis*, is only an occasional visitor from the north to the Swan Coastal Plain, and Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Aus-*

tralia, 4th edn., 1967, p.415) give a summary of previous records. On January 24, 1973, towards dusk, I saw one individual perched on a power line on the coast road to Rockingham, directly opposite the lead into the quarantine station at Woodmans Point.

—A. G. MATHEWS, South Perth.

Another Record of the Antarctic Fulmar from the South Coast.—On January 28, 1973 on the ocean beach a half a mile east of the mouth of the Warren River Mr. John Ingram and I noticed a moderate sized white gull-like bird, in a mummified form, on the strand line. However its beak revealed it as a petrel. The head was removed and the bird was identified later as an Antarctic Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialisoides*, of which there are only three previous records known from Western Australia. The head is now in the collection of the Western Australian Museum (registered No. A 12297). The exposed culmen was 42.8 mm.

—GILBERT PFITZNER, Gooseberry Hill.

A Western Silvereye with a Deformed Bill.—A Silvereye (*Zosterops gouldi*) with a deformed bill was caught in a mist net in my garden on 1st May 1971. The bird was caught with other members of a small flock that had been feeding from bait trays in our backyard banding station. When the bird was removed from the net it was found to have an elongated lower mandible which twisted downward to the left. Close inspection did not reveal any sign of injury to account for the deformity.



Fig. 1.—Silvereye with deformed bill.

In general appearance the bird was untidy with the body plumage unkempt and dull. Dry white flakes were evident on body and head. The tail feathers were bedraggled and bore traces of excreta. The condition of the plumage indicated the bird's inability to preen itself.

The preen gland was examined and this appeared to be distended and inflamed, measuring 6.5 mm. x 4.7 mm. Examination of skull ossification indicated that the bird was immature, with additional data as follows: Bill length, from the junction of the upper mandible and skull, 12.0 mm.; lower mandible, 15.0 mm.; tarsus, 20.0 mm.; wing, 56.0 mm.; tail, 46.0 mm.; weight, 9.9 gm.